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The Vedra was under the command of Capt. Brewster. She was built in 1892 at Sunderland, England; was of 4,067 tons, and belonged to the Associated Oil Carriers' Company of London.

There have been no confutations or occupation of private property. The cabinet of Provisional President Gutierrez has not been finally completed, the portfolio of foreign relations still being vacant.

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Two weeks after the civil authorities of New Mexico asked for Salazar, to try him on a charge of perjury. The army sent an armed guard to Albuquerque, N. M., and there turned him over to the state authorities. While in the charge of the latter he escaped, and promptly crossed into Mexico, where he has been active since in organizing a new revolution.

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According to an official dispatch from Mexico City, dated December 4, Special Agent Carothers accompanied the envoys of Gen. Villa to Cuernavaca, where they went to confer with Gen. Zapata. The delegation was very courteously received by Zapata and was successful in securing from him that he and Villa should at once meet and come to an understanding.

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WAR OFFICIALLY REPORTED

French Statement

PARIS, December 8, 2:45 p.m.—Increased activity on the part of the Germans in Belgium was reported in the official statement given out here this afternoon. The statement is as follows:

"During the day of the 7th the enemy has been more active than the day before in the region of the Yser and in the neighborhood of Ypres. Our artillery has answered back with success."

"In the region of Arras a very brilliant attack has been in progress, as we have announced, of Vermelles and Ruitre. Vermelles had been for nearly two months the scene of desperate fighting. The enemy had taken footing there October 16, and from October 21 to October 25 succeeded in forcing us back from that locality. From the 25th of October sniping and mining operations brought us back until we were again in close contact, and the last of December we re-occupied the park and chateau of Vermelles."

"In the region of the Aisne and in Champagne there have been some artillery engagements, and our heavy artillery dispersed several gatherings of the enemy."

"In the Argonne, Forest of Gurie, and to the northwest of Pont-a-Mousson, Forest of Le Pretre, we have gained a little ground."

"Along the rest of the front there is nothing to report."

German Statement

BERLIN, December 8 (by wireless to London, 3 p.m.)—The official statement issued by the German headquarters today says:

"On the coast of Flanders the bad conditions of the roads, made worse by the recent torrential rains, is causing great difficulty to the movement of our troops."

"To the north of Arras we have made some slight progress."

"The war hospital at Lisieux was burned down yesterday. This is probably a case of arson. There were, however, no lives lost."

"The statement made by the French regarding an advance in the forest of Argonne is not in accordance with the facts. For a long time past no French attacks whatever have taken place there. On the contrary we are continually gaining ground slowly."

"The day before yesterday a French position at Mailincourt, east of Vermeux, was captured. The greater part of the garrison fell into our hands as prisoners. The remainder, two officers and about 150 men, were taken as prisoners."

"A French attack on our positions to the north of Nancy was repulsed yesterday."

"No special reports are at hand from the East Prussian frontier."

"In northern Poland the German troops are closely pursuing the retreating enemy to the east and to the south of Lodz. Besides the extraordinary large and sanguinary losses reported yesterday, the Russians have lost up to the present about 1,500 prisoners and sixteen cannon with ammunition carts."

"In southern Poland nothing special has happened."

Austrian Statement

VIENNA, via Amsterdam and London, December 8.—The following official announcement has been issued by the Austrian war office:

"The fighting in the Russian war theater is not yet decided. The Austro-Hungarian and German troops in the district southwest of Piotrkow (Poland) attacked the Russian troops advancing northward across Nowo Radomsko and forced them to retreat."

"In west Galicia important battles are proceeding, but no result has been reached. The Austro-German troops captured 1,500 Russian prisoners and a great deal of ammunition."

"In the Carpathians the battles continue, and from some points the enemy has withdrawn strong forces behind the mountains."

Turkish Statement

CONSTANTINOPLE, via London, December 8.—An official statement issued here says:

"Near Adana we have gained new successes over the Russians, capturing cannon and ammunition."

"The Russian attacks east of Lake Van (Kurdistan) have been unsuccessful. Our troops advancing toward Revanduz have occupied Samsat, an important Russian point of support in the province of Aserhajan."

REPORT OF FIERCE FIGHTING

ALONG BANKS OF THE YSER

Allies Said to Have Assumed Offensive Everywhere on Line in France and Belgium.

AMSTERDAM, via London, December 8.—According to telegrams from Sluis, Holland, fierce fighting has been resumed on the Yser.

The Germans, according to the same dispatches, are taking renewed precautions against the bombardment of Zeebrugge by British warships. Windows and balconies in the houses on the seaside there are being provided with sandbags and machine guns in order to reply to such an attack.

Allies Assume Offensive

Taking advantage of the preoccupation of the Germans in the east, the allied French, Belgian and British forces began a series of attacks in the west. They are now virtually in possession of the left bank of the Yser canal, and in northern France, particularly in the neighborhood of La Bassée, where the Germans hold a very strong position, the allies are beginning with a heavy cannonade to feel their way eastward.

The same process is being followed along the whole front. The advance, slight as it is, is being maintained, and the present at least, in the opinion of many, the German menace of the coast ports.

It is believed that so long as the Germans are compelled to keep up the strength of their army in the east they will be unable to assume the offensive in the west. There is a report, however, that the Germans have kept the pick of their public troops in the Yser valley, whence, at an opportune moment, they can hurl it against the French lines and make another effort to get through to Paris.

Go to Attack in Boats

Telegraphing from Dunkirk, the Daily Chronicle's correspondent says: "The Germans' early Monday morning made another attack on the Belgian lines at Ramskapelle, near Perwez. They came in numerous rafts, which were armed with machine guns and towed by three powerful motor boats."

As soon as the Belgian outposts opened fire a series of ferocious and blinding searchlights on them and opened a murderous machine gun fire. The Germans, however, were not deterred and were preparing to land when the Belgians brought up a searchlight, enabling them to see the rafts and to station them some distance in the rear to shell the rafts accurately.

Several Rafts Captured

"The weight of the allies' heavier artillery soon began to tell, and the Germans were driven back. Several of their rafts captured. Belgian troops advanced shoulder deep in the water, and the public troops of the Belgians, many of whom surrendered. The others retired."

The correspondent of the Amsterdam Handelsblad says the Germans delivered violent attacks yesterday on trenches recently captured by the allies, but were repulsed, and adds that the allies have made marked progress in the neighborhood of Langemark, Zonnebeke and Hisselbeke.

The Germans have been obliged to substitute lighter guns for their heavy artillery, and the allies have made the use of the latter impracticable.

RUSSIAN GENERAL STAFF TELLS OF DESPERATE POLAND BATTLES

PETROGRAD, December 8.—The general staff of the Russian army has given out an official report covering the fighting on the left bank of the River Vistula for a period of two weeks ending on November 25.

The military developments in this locality are described in the official announcement as follows:

"Toward the end of October Russian troops, pursuing certain Austrian and German forces, which were retreating in a southerly direction, reached a point in the neighborhood of the River Vistula. This Russian detachment was strongly supported on its right wing. The circumstances, however, were such that our rear guards were subjected to a series of ferocious attacks. The detachment was hampered by the conduct of our offensive, and to a considerable degree, and the enemy, taking advantage of this circumstance, moved forward along the railroad."

"Little by little we observed that the Germans in front of us were concentrating a considerable force of the important force of the enemy was being concentrated along the front, and the movement of our troops was being hampered by the communication of this wing with the base."

Forced Change of Tactics

"At the same time we learned that certain important highways in Silesia had been cut off by the enemy, and that the fronts on which our army was in position were being strongly protected by Austrian troops brought from Galicia, and that these forces were in turn supported by the enemy. The high water in question were, furthermore, doubtless strongly fortified, particularly in the vicinity of Czenstochowa and Cracow."

"This new military situation made it incumbent upon us to put into effect a partial modification of the dispositions of our troops. We decided to make a change which involved a considerable number of our forces. This maneuver was effected under the most favorable conditions, and our right wing, previously mentioned, these supporting forces were subjected to a series of ferocious attacks in the vicinity of Vlobovsk, Kutno and Lenzyca. The Russian resistance here prevented the carrying out of the German operations and permitted us to bring together the forces necessary to check the German offensive movement undertaken in the vicinity of Thorn and Slupsk."

"After these occurrences the Germans for a period of several days endeavored stubbornly to drive us from the positions held by our right wing, which rested on the River Vistula. On November 19, after unbelievable efforts and enormous sacrifices, the enemy succeeded in penetrating our front."

"This success was at once followed by the driving of a German avalanche into the west of the city. The Germans then attacked with great energy the Russian forces which menaced their rear. Furthermore, November 23, strong German columns making their way to the west of the city, the river Warta was in the direction of Strykow, Bzreszyn, Kozluszka, Tuszyn and Rysak."

"In spite of these conditions, most difficult and distressing for us, our troops continued to fight with increasing energy. In the region of the Vistula our troops repulsed the frantic attacks of the Germans, inflicting on them heavy losses."

"Two detachments of Russian reserves, thrown against the forces of the enemy in the region of Tuszyn and Strykow, succeeded in regaining possession of the town of Strykow. This action, later to take the defensive, these German columns were thrown into disorder."

"At the meantime our troops returned to the fight along the front between Lodz and Sieradz. The Russian troops, in regaining possession of the lines of communication of the town of Strykow, succeeded in driving the Germans back. In this manner there was brought about shortly after November 23 an improvement in the general situation, and the German columns were thrown into disorder."

"The German, having sustained enormous losses found themselves under the necessity of retreating and taking up positions in new trenches. As to the German reserves, they were all sent to the front, and the German attacks on our detachments. These Germans on the front between Ragow and Tuszyn, were retreating their steps in the direction of Strykow. At the same time the Germans, by ferocious attacks, were endeavoring to prevent us from throwing a last energetic detachment around their forces, which had been concentrated at Bzreszyn."

WAR NEWS IN BRIEF.

Official advices from Berlin today confirm the reports that the allies have resumed the offensive in France and Belgium, but do not indicate that the movement has yet grown to formidable proportions.

Private dispatches from Holland are to the effect that fierce fighting is in progress along the Yser canal. These reports are in partial agreement with official French communications, which, however, tend to show that the forward movement of the allies is being attempted at points all along the line.

Berlin is already looking toward the possible investment of Warsaw, as a result of the capture of Lodz, Russian Poland. It was said officially at the German capital today that news of decisive results in the campaign against the Russians may be expected at any time, and that latest reports from the military headquarters lead to the belief that operations thus far have been successful.

It is reported unofficially in Berlin that 100,000 Russians were captured at Lodz.

In the Balkans, Austria's armies apparently have met with checks in their operations, which recently have been attended with marked success. An official statement from Nish asserts that the Austrians have been overwhelmed by the Serbians in the recent fighting, and have retired in disorder, losing 1,800 men. Reports from Cetinje state that the Austrians delivered several violent attacks against the Montenegrin forces, but were repulsed with heavy losses.

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Ship for Ship, U. S. Navy as Good as That of Any Nation, Declares Badger

Tribute to the preparedness of the navy was paid at the hearing before the House naval committee today by Rear Admiral Badger, who commanded the Atlantic fleet in the first part of the Mexican trouble, and Rear Admiral Fletcher, who succeeded him. "Ship for ship," declared Admiral Badger, "the American navy is as good as that of any other nation."

Mr. Badger said that for the ultimate adequate defense there ought to be forty-eight battleships with four torpedo destroyers to each battleship of the fleet line.

Mr. Gen. Barnett, commander of the Marine Corps, told the House naval committee that the need of his branch of the service. He said the corps was adequately equipped with machine guns and field artillery for times of peace, but would need more to be put on a war basis.

An appropriation of \$50,000 to equip the newly created aviation section of the army was urged by Brig. Gen. George S. Messersmith, who today before the House military affairs committee, considering the army appropriation bill.

Questioned by Representative Kahn of California, Gen. Scriven asserted that France, Germany and Russia each had a fleet of 100,000 men, and that the United States had 250,000 men. He asserted that the manning of the fleet was severely handicapped by lack of demand for their services, and that the government in time of emergency would take a year or more to get the fleet into action.

Gen. Scriven said that the European war had shown the aeroplane to be the most important weapon of the future, and that the government was gathering information that war has ever seen."

At present the army has eleven aeroplanes on hand, Gen. Scriven said. Eight additional machines and training aeroplanes are under construction.

POLICE COURT POWER

TO DENY HABEAS CORPUS

There is nothing in the Constitution to prevent Congress from discriminating against citizens of the District of Columbia. Chief Justice Shepard of the court of appeals has suggested the argument in a case before that court. Attorneys Henry E. Davis and Matthew E. O'Brien, who are representing the District of Columbia, are contending that if the Police Court did have such jurisdiction, it would be a discrimination against the citizens of the District, in that greater punishment could be denied them by the Congress, by law by our police court than by any other court in the United States.

Mr. O'Brien said: "The citizens of the District are denied many privileges which are generally enjoyed by citizens of the United States, but this is an attempt by judicial legislation to remedy the first time that in the administration of a criminal statute they may be discriminated against."

Argument by Mr. Davis

Mr. Davis, who made the closing argument, said: "It is proposed that the police court of the District of Columbia be empowered to deny habeas corpus to the citizens of the District. This is a discrimination against the citizens of the District, in that greater punishment could be denied them by the Congress, by law by our police court than by any other court in the United States."

"At this point the chief justice asked: 'Is the District of Columbia a part of the United States?'"

Mr. Davis replied: "The District of Columbia is a part of the United States, and the citizens of the District are entitled to the same rights as the citizens of the United States."

Provisions of 14th Amendment

Mr. Davis argued that while the fourteenth amendment applied only to states, it was not to be supposed that Congress had deliberately enacted a law which allowed a greater penalty to be inflicted upon a citizen of the District of Columbia than upon a citizen outside the District, and to hold that the Police Court of the District of Columbia was empowered to deny habeas corpus to the citizens of the District, was a discrimination against the citizens of the District.

GENERAL IS KILLED

BY AIRMAN'S ARROW

BERN, Switzerland, via London, December 8.—The Bavarian press reports the death of Gen. von Meyer as the result of an arrow shot by a hostile aviator while the general was entering a motor car.

Dispatches early in November reported the death of Gen. von Meyer on the battle front at Idria.

Hard Fighting on Both Sides

"Ignoring our right wing and our forces in the vicinity of Lodz, and to the west of the city, the Germans then attacked with great energy the Russian forces which menaced their rear. Furthermore, November 23, strong German columns making their way to the west of the city, the river Warta was in the direction of Strykow, Bzreszyn, Kozluszka, Tuszyn and Rysak."

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POLICE COURT POWER

TO DENY HABEAS CORPUS

There is nothing in the Constitution to prevent Congress from discriminating against citizens of the District of Columbia. Chief Justice Shepard of the court of appeals has suggested the argument in a case before that court. Attorneys Henry E. Davis and Matthew E. O'Brien, who are representing the District of Columbia, are contending that if the Police Court did have such jurisdiction, it would be a discrimination against the citizens of the District, in that greater punishment could be denied them by the Congress, by law by our police court than by any other court in the United States.

Mr. O'Brien said: "The citizens of the District are denied many privileges which are generally enjoyed by citizens of the United States, but this is an attempt by judicial legislation to remedy the first time that in the administration of a criminal statute they may be discriminated against."

DEFENSE OF STRAINS

CRUSHING, SAYS WISH

WISH, Servia, via London, December 8.—The Serbian victory December 5 on the northeastern front is further emphasized in the Serbian official statement, issued today, which concludes as follows:

"The enemy was overwhelmed, and had to retire in disorder. In pursuit we took six officers and 1,210 men prisoners. We captured two howitzers and nine other guns and also ambulances, many rifles and telegraphic material."

"Peter, who has been ill for many months, has assumed command of the Serbian army."

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